

25 Pinehurst Dr.
Jericho, Vt. 05465

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC, 2004

To whom it may concern,

I have been a licensed Amateur Radio Operator since 1959. At the present time I hold both an Amateur Extra and General Radio Telephone license.

I favor the RM-10868 RAF (Radio Amateur Foundation) proposal as I feel it meets most of the needs to maintain the integrity of ham radio and at the same time promote growth in attracting those serious in obtaining a ham ticket.

I DO NOT favor an "automatic upgrade" for the Technician class license to the General class without further testing for HF privileges. I do favor maintaining a minimal requirement of 5 WPM in Morse Code for both the General and Amateur Extra class exam. I am also in favor of eliminating the published questions pools in order to eliminate the "rote memorization" of test questions and initiating a more comprehensive exam system to test an applicants true understanding of ham radio material and the new technology.

It is even more imperative to improve the exam system if cw is eliminated from the new "novice" or "entry level" license to test a new applicants understanding of basic electronics and radio frequency principles.

In my opinion, the key issue in this restructuring process, is to maintain the integrity of the ham radio exam system, not by lowering the bar, but by raising it to benefit the amateur service in the long run.

As an amateur operator licensed back in the late '50s and early '60s, I found an amateur ticket was in fact something many employers (and the military) recognized as an asset. At present, I find that most employers give little credence to the value of a ham ticket in today's world. This just goes to show how a ham ticket signified much more years ago than it does today. In other words, it symbolized hard work.

In light of my experience, I definitely look at RM-10868 proposal as a step in the right direction to improving ham radio and restoring the credibility it once had. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Hopefully, it will provide you with some insight, and a decision by the commission will be made that will be beneficial to restoring the integrity, and thus the future of amateur radio in this country.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

Rene Desany, K1MVP